

MRS. HALL TO BE ALLOWED LIBERTY ON BAIL IN FEAR OF PUBLIC CLAMOR

Rector's Widow And 3 of Kin to Plead Tomorrow

By LEO J. CASEY
GRAPHIC Staff Correspondent

SOMERVILLE, N. J., Sept. 16.—Despite rumors that she is to be rearrested, it became apparent this afternoon that Mrs. Frances Stevens Hall, widow of the slain minister, will be allowed to remain at liberty under the \$15,000 bail arranged two days after her arrest.

Fear of adverse public sentiment, it is said, has determined Special Prosecutor Alexander Simpson on this course of action.

Mrs. Hall is said to be the only person charged with first degree murder that has ever been released under nominal bail in the state of New Jersey. She was indicted with her brothers, Willie and Henry, and her cousin, Henry Carpenter, in connection with the slaying four years ago of the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor R. Mills.

Arranged to Halt Flareup

Persons who gathered around the Somerville Courthouse this afternoon, where the four defendants are to plead to the indictments before Supreme Court Justice Charles



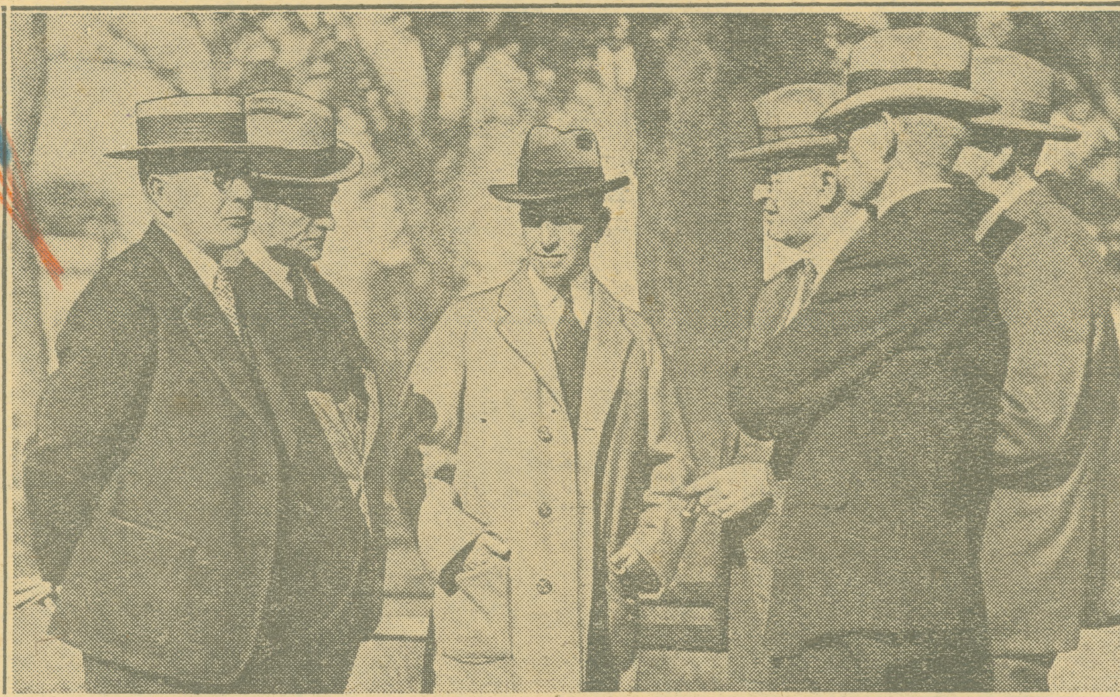
Catherine Rastall Ralph Gorsline

W. Parker, late tomorrow, were unanimous in declaring that the program of the prosecution had been arranged for the sole purpose of preventing a flareup of public indignation.

It was recalled that when Mrs. Hall was dragged from her bed on the night of July 28 and cast into jail there was a storm of protest and two days later the authorities agreed to release her under the \$15,000 bond. Should she be returned to a cell now this high feeling might again assert itself, and for this reason neither Special Prosecutor Simpson nor his aids are expected to raise objection to a continuance of the bond when the woman is arraigned with her relatives for pleading.

The opening of the trial will be speeded and probably it will begin not later than the first week in Oc-

Grand Jury Indicts in Hall Murder!



JERSEY JUSTICE flashed into quick action when the April grand jury returned eight indictments against Mrs. Hall, Henry Carpenter and Henry and Willie Stevens for the murder four years ago of the Rev. Edward W. Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills. Above you see members of the jury just before they indicted the four. Left to right, they are Francis E. Bodin, A. H. Wilson, W. Linbarger, John Tillman, E. Weghte and J. M. Martin.

tober. Special Prosecutor Alexander W. Simpson, who yesterday presented to the grand jury evidence never before revealed, says that he uncovered but "50 per cent. of his case" before the inquisitorial body, and could obtain a conviction if the trial began today.

Major developments in the case, revealed since the voting of the indictments, are as follows:—

1. Somerset County Prosecutor Francis Bergen is expected to ask a perjury indictment tomorrow or Monday against Ralph V. N. Gors-



J. J. Underwood Alex Simpson

line. Gorsline is the New Brunswick vestryman who for four years kept secret his presence on the old Phillips farm at the time of the murders there. He was at the scene of the crime with a woman not his wife, Miss Catherine Rastall.

2. Mrs. Hall will be allowed to continue at liberty on bail.

3. The mysterious "A. L." said to be an eyewitness to the slayings, has been located and will corroborate the story of Mrs. Jane Gibson, the "pig woman."

Mrs. Gibson named Mrs. Hall, Willie Stevens and Henry Carpenter as those she saw at the scene on the murder night. She saw Carpenter with a gun in his hand and Mrs. Hall weeping over a form on the ground. "A. L." may also name another person, in addition to Mrs. Gibson's three, as having been present.

This little community, New Brunswick, home of the Halls, and the countryside for miles around continued to boil over today with the sensational developments of the last forty-eight hours.

On Tuesday, suddenly and with the greatest secrecy, Senator Simpson sent out summonses for the holdover April grand jury. He had decided that that body might not be as prejudiced as the September grand jury, which had been scheduled to hear the case next Monday.

At 9:40 o'clock yesterday morning Justice Parker charged the inquisitorial body. Shortly afterward Simpson was questioning the first of twenty-seven witnesses, and before 5 p. m. the grand jury had unanimously voted the four in-

dictments. They considered their action only ten minutes.

With their foreman, Carlton P. Hoagland, Somerville newspaper publisher, on record as opposed to the present investigation and with several of their number firmly convinced that the revived probe was useless, the jurymen filed into their room on the third floor of the spacious marble courtroom which this little county boasts.

The majority was skeptical, a number were defiant. Then Simpson began. He is a fiery little fel-



Mrs. Gibson Barbara Tough

low and a clever criminal lawyer. The witnesses trooped into the room one by one. The questions came sharp and fast.

These were the highlights:—

1. Statement of John Stillwell, driver of Dr. Hall's hearse, that he saw deep scratches on Mrs. Hall's face on the day of the funeral.

2. Statement of Mrs. Mary De-

marest that she had seen Henry Stevens in New Brunswick the morning after the murders, September 15, 1922, when he had said he was in Lavallette at the time.

3. The often repeated eye witness story of the "pig woman."

Falls to Uphold Alibi

4. Arthur Appelgate's failure to uphold the alibi of Henry Stevens. Stevens has always claimed that he was fishing near his home at the hour of the murders and named Appelgate as one of his companions.

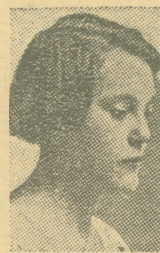
5. Gorsline's admission that he had seen Henry Stevens in New Brunswick on the 15th.

6. The vestryman's further admission that he had seen "something in the lane which the police thought was of value." The quotes are Gorsline's. Just what he saw and told the grand jury about has not yet been learned.

7. Identification as Willie Stevens of the fingerprints on the calling card on Dr. Hall's dead body as it lay on the Phillips farm.

8. Mrs. Demarest's statement implicating her cousin, Mrs. Minna Clarke, as spying on the affairs of the clergyman and Mrs. Mills. Mrs. Clarke was a member of the church choir and had often been accused of jealousy for Mrs. Mills. Mrs. Clarke, it is said, joined with Gorsline in her spying and followed the rector and his chorister.

An early arrival in Somerville today is expected to be Mrs. Henry Stevens, who sought to follow her husband to jail last night. She



Pearl Bahmer

Raymond Schneider

has announced her intention of taking up temporary residence here so that she may be near him.

The motherly appearing wife of the accused man fought hard to maintain her composure when her husband was arrested and made a good job of it. She appeared more concerned at his catching cold from riding in an open automobile than over his arrest.

From Lavallette Stevens was taken by detectives to Toms River, where he was questioned for an hour and a half.

"Did you wilfully take a pistol and shoot down Edward Hall and Mrs. Eleanor Mills?" he had been asked before being taken from his home.

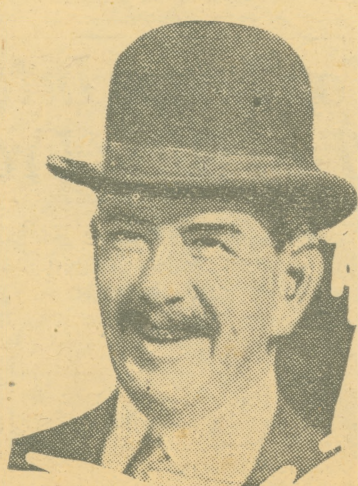
"Do I have to answer that with-

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Four Who Will Face Jury as Hall Slayers



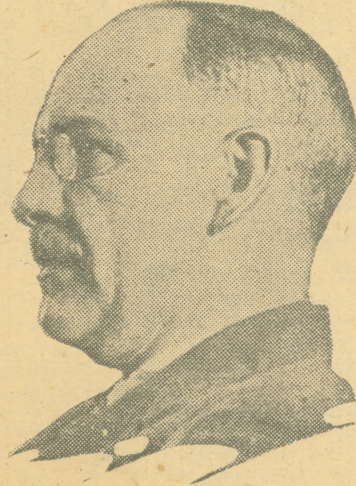
WILLIE STEVENS



HENRY STEVENS



MRS. FRANCES S. HALL



HENRY DE LA B. CARPENDER

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